

REMARKS

Claims 35-52 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-2, 3, and 5-34 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein in favor of new claims 35-52. No new matter is added.

The final Office Action objects to claim 5 based on informalities. Because claim 5 has been canceled, this objection is moot. Withdrawal of the claim objection is respectfully requested.

The final Office Action rejects claims 1, 3 and 5-34 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0065709 to MacKenzie in view of U.S. Patent 6,070,143 to Barney *et al.* (Barney) and U.S. Patent 6,606,615 to Jennings *et al.* (Jennings). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Because claims 1, 3 and 5-34 have been canceled, the above rejection is moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 35-52 are added. The subject matter of claims 35-52 is supported by, for example, Figs. 4-5, pgs. 3-4, and 62-64.

MacKenzie, Barney and Jennings, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest a knowledge-based management diagnosis device, comprising: an accumulation unit that accumulates awareness data of a plurality of users; an analyzing unit that analyzes the awareness data accumulated by the accumulation unit; and a generating unit that generates a "community" based on the analyzed awareness data as recited in independent claim 35.

Similarly, MacKenzie, Barney and Jennings, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest a knowledge-based management diagnosis method or storage medium capable of performing the function of: accumulating awareness data of a plurality of users; analyzing the awareness data accumulated; and generating a "community" based on the analyzed awareness data as recited in independent claims 45 and 49.

Instead, MacKenzie discloses a system for analyzing employee opinion survey (EOS) results. The "splits" discussed in MacKenzie are predefined, prior to accumulation of data. Thus, no generation of a "community" based on the analyzed awareness data as recited in new independent claims 35, 45 and 49 is taught or suggested by MacKenzie.

Barney does not compensate for the deficiencies of MacKenzie. Instead, Barney discloses a method for analyzing work requirements. In particular, Barney teaches categorizing jobs by title and corresponding skills. However, Barney fails to teach or suggest generation of a "community" based on the analyzed data as recited in new independent claims 35, 45 and 49.

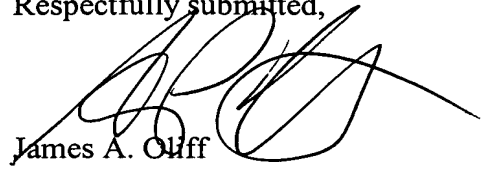
Jennings also does not compensate for the deficiencies of MacKenzie and fails to generate a community based on the analyzed awareness data. Rather, if anything, Jennings also teaches that any grouping of users can be predefined by "group, firm, club or trade association" (col. 17) rather than based on the analyzed awareness data as claimed.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully assert that newly added independent claims 35, 45 and 49 are patentable over the applied references. The dependent claims are likewise patentable over the applied references for at least the reasons discussed, as well as for the additional features they recite.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 35-52 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time
Request for Continued Examination

Date: November 30, 2005

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